

*A good education. A good job.
A productive and satisfying life.
These are things we want for
our children*

*Our children want these things too.
Many aren't sure how they are going to
get them. Many can't see what's ahead for
them. If our children can't see how school
relates to their future, they are more likely
to tune out in class. And, they will be more
likely to leave high school without the
skills they will need to succeed.*

School-to-Work Transition Shows the Way

School-to-Work Transition links the classroom more closely with our children's future. It gives them a way to explore careers that interest them. They can get a firsthand look at adults at work, what jobs are like, what skills are needed, and what's expected of tomorrow's workers.

School-to-Work Transition makes school more relevant and emphasizes learning by doing.

For More Information

Contact your local School District

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School-to-Work Transition



School-to-Work Transition Motivates Children to Learn

School-to-Work Transition experiences will encourage our children to pay more attention in school.

- ✦ Those preparing for college will focus more on their studies when they see how their academic courses apply to careers that interest them.
- ✦ Those preparing for full-time work will learn the skills and work habits they need to get started in a successful career.
- ✦ Those combining academics with career preparation will see the connection between the two activities.

School-to-Work Transition will raise students' expectations by exposing them to new opportunities. With career goals in mind, they will focus more on academics and will be better prepared to meet the state's new higher academic standards. Students are more likely to stay in school when they see hope for their future.

The Vision for Education Excellence

Washington State has set its sights on providing a rigorous, top-quality education for our children. To get there, new laws were passed to raise academic standards and to measure how much our children know and can do. The new laws established four clear goals for student achievement. These goals call for our children to:

Goal 1: Read with comprehension, write with skill, and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings.

Goal 2: Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical, and life sciences; civics and history; geography; arts; and health and fitness.

Goal 3: Think analytically, logically, and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems.

Goal 4: Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect career and educational opportunities.

To inspire students to reach for higher academic standards, school districts are preparing School-to-Work Transition experiences.

Children in elementary and middle school will be exposed to careers through field trips and classroom presentations. In early high school, teens will explore careers that interest them through research and field trips to work sites.

As juniors and seniors in high school, young adults will be encouraged to hold at least one internship or part-time job in their area of interest. The experience will be closely linked to activities in their classroom.

Employers and Workers Want to Help

Washington employers and labor organizations are working with school districts to help prepare our children for the future. Some are helping teachers design School-to-Work Transition experiences in the classroom, school-based enterprises, or other class projects. Others are opening their work places for field trips or inviting students to hold internships.

What Can Parents Do?

There are a lot of ways to get involved in School-to-Work Transition. Here are some ideas:

- ✦ Talk with your children each day about school. Ask them: What did you learn today? Why did you learn it? How will you use what you learned in the future?
- ✦ Support higher academic standards in your schools, and help your children meet them.
- ✦ Be a mentor to your children. Talk with them about your work. Help them understand that performance counts, both in school and on the job. Help them explore various careers, and choose extracurricular activities that support their interests.
- ✦ If your teen has a part-time job, take a few minutes each day to ask how it went, what he or she learned, and what other employees were doing.
- ✦ Call your school or district and ask about their School-to-Work Transition efforts. See if there is a planning group you can join.
- ✦ Consider what talents you can offer. Visit classrooms to talk about your work and career. Host a field trip at your work place, and offer to supervise student interns. Volunteer at your school's career center.
- ✦ Be an advocate for School-to-Work Transition in your community—over the backyard fence, at the grocery store, or on the soccer field. Become a resource for other parents and encourage them to get involved.